of meeting the growing needs of the traffic. Nevertheless, an outlay of Rs. 2984 crores has been provided in 8th Five Year Plan 1992—97 for increasing the existing cargo handling capacity of the Major Ports to 237 million tonnes.

Delinking of Vadinar Port from Kandla port limit

5603. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government has approached the Government of India to delink the Vadinar Port, excluding the Oil terminal, from the Kandla Port limit, so as to develop it as a State Port for handling dry cargo;

(b) whether Government would accede to the request of the State Government;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request of the State Government has not been acceded to.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Due to the buoyant trend in oil traffic, the oil terminal at Vadinar is proposed to be expanded. The unutilised land area is required by the Kandla Port Trust for creating secondary facilties like godowns, oil storage towers etc., to cater to the increased traffic consequent to the expansion. Therefore, it is not possible to delink Vadinar from Kandla Port.

Construction of contaner terminal at Vallarpadam

5604. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

a) whether Government have taken any initiative to construct the container terminal at Vallarpadam of Cochin Port; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Global offers from private parties were invited by Cochin Port for establishment of container Transhipment Terminal at Vallarpadam. The response received in this regard has not been adequate

Woork on the National Highway No. 17

5605. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether work on the NH—17 from Ponnani to Ernakulam has still not been completed; and

(b) if so, by when the work on NH—17 would be completed in the above area, especially from N. Parur to Ernakulam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Various sanctioned works of improvement from Ponnani to Ernakulam on NH-17 are in different stages of progress.

(b) It is too early to indicate the date of completion of the improvement works including the section between North Parur to Ernakulam on NH-17.

Basic price of diesel and petrol for central road fund

5606. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 5 per cent of the basic price of diesel and

petrol has been earmarked for Central Road Fund, as per resolution passed by Parliament in 1988;

(b) if so, how much amount has since become due on this account in the Central Road Fund for the State of Maharashtra, till date; and

(c) whether Government has received any demand from the Government of Maharashtra for implementation of the 1988 Resolution and if so, what decision has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A Resolution to this effect was passed by Parliament in 1988.

(b) The Resolution could not be implemented so far and as such no amount has become due to any State including Maharashtra.

(c) Requests have been made by various States including the State of Maharashtra for implementation of the Resolution. The matter is under consideration of the Government and it is too early to indicate the decision thereon.

Development of National Highway No. 5

5607. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the fund earmarked during 1995-96 for the improvement of National Highways; and

(b) the details of work which was proposed to be undertaken during the remaining years of the Eighth Five Year Plan for the development of National Highway No. 5, particularly from Balasore to Bhubaneshwar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) It is too early to indicate the details of budgetary allocation for National Highways as Demands for Grants for 1995-96 are yet to be approved by the Parliament.

(b) Improvement works proposed to be undertaken on National Highways No. 5 will depend on the availability of funds during the remaining years of Eighth Five Year Plan.

Proposals for conversion of State Highways into National Highways

5608. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from States for conversion of State highways into national highways;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, State-wise in general and for Maharashtra in particular;

(c) what is the policy of Government in this regard and the details of proposals of Maharashtra being considered for conversion into national highway during the 8th Five Year Plan; and

(d) what was the total length of national highways in Maharashtra 10 years ago and addition to national highways upto the 31st March, 1995 and proposed additional length during the 8th Five Year Plan and the estimated investment thereon, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 135 proposals for 38,933 km have been received from all States, including 11 proposals for 4,792 km from Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) Declaration of a new National Highway is dependent on a number of factors viz. criteria laid